



How to avoid Arrogance

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In the name of Allah, The Most Gracious, The Most Merciful





Assalamu'alaikum wa rahmatullahi wa barakatuhu,

We pray that this message reaches you
in good health and imaan.

On behalf of our AMAU Academy team, we would like
to present to you these compiled notes that we have
prepared to make your journey with us a lot easier.

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to be made, kindly inform us via our email
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May Allah make our paths toward seeking
beneficial knowledge easy and kindle our hearts
with sincerity and gratefulness
towards Him.

Jazakumullahu Khayran



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جل جلاله | Jalla Jalāluhu

Allah the Most Exalted



صلى الله عليه وسلم | Sallāllāhu Alayhi Wa Sallam

Peace and blessings of Allah be upon him



رضي الله عنه | RadiAllahu `anhu

May Allah be pleased with him

Meaning of Al-Kibr (Arrogance)

Chapter One

In the Arabic language the word arrogance (al-Kibr) means to be big.

The Arabs say:

- 1 "وَرِثُوا الْمَجْدَ كَابِرًا عَنْ كَابِرٍ، أَيْ كَبِيرًا عَنْ كَبِيرٍ فِي الشَّرَفِ وَالْعِزِّ"
"They inherited honour from elder to elder i.e. an older person to an older person in honour and status."

Mu'jam Maqāyīs al-Lugha 5/154

Ibn al-Mandhūr said:

- 2 "الْكِبْرُ، بِالْكَسْرِ، وَالْكِبْرِيَاءُ الْعِظَمَةُ وَالتَّجَبُّرُ... وَقَدْ تَكَبَّرَ وَاسْتَكَبَرَ وَتَكَابَرَ وَقِيلَ تَكَبَّرَ:
 مِنَ الْكِبْرِ، وَتَكَابَرَ: مِنَ السِّنِّ. وَالتَّكَبُّرُ وَالِاسْتِكْبَارُ: التَّعَظُّمُ"
"Al-Kibr with a kasra and al-Kibriyā means superiority and arrogance...and Takabbar, Istikbār, Takābar and it is said Takabbar is from arrogance and Takābar is from age. Al-Takabbur and al-Istikbār means superiority"

Lisān al-Mīzān 5/125

The Islamic meaning of the al-Kibr is explained in the hadith of Abdillahi Ibn Mas'ud رضي الله عنه :

- 3 لَا يَدْخُلُ الْجَنَّةَ مَنْ كَانَ فِي قَلْبِهِ مِثْقَالُ ذَرَّةٍ مِنْ كِبَرٍ . قَالَ رَجُلٌ إِنَّ الرَّجُلَ يُحِبُّ أَنْ يَكُونَ ثَوْبُهُ حَسَنًا وَنَعْلُهُ حَسَنَةً . قَالَ " إِنَّ اللَّهَ جَمِيلٌ يُحِبُّ الْجَمَالَ الْكِبَرُ بَطْرُ الْحَقِّ وَغَمْطُ النَّاسِ"
"He who has in his heart the weight of a mustard seed of pride shall not enter Paradise. A person (amongst his hearers) said: Verily a person loves that his dress should be fine, and his shoes should be fine. He (the Holy Prophet) remarked: Verily, Allāh ﷻ is Graceful and He loves Grace. Pride is disdaining the truth (out of self-conceit) and contempt for the people."

Sahih Muslim 91b

It is rejecting the truth and seeing oneself to be high and putting people down. A person sees himself to be higher than others, not recognizing people's rights, and does not give any value or importance to others. To the point that he or she might even lie, slander and forge falsehood about someone.

We may even find this among ourselves. When the truth comes to us, we do not want to accept it.

Allāh ﷻ says in the Qur'an:

- 4 وَمِنْ النَّاسِ مَنْ يُعْجِبُكَ قَوْلُهُ فِي الْحَيَاةِ الدُّنْيَا وَيُشْهَدُ اللَّهُ عَلَى مَا فِي قَلْبِهِ ۖ وَهُوَ أَلَدُّ الْخِصَامِ وَإِذَا تَوَلَّى سَعَى فِي الْأَرْضِ لِيُفْسِدَ فِيهَا وَيُهْلِكَ الْحَرْثَ وَالنَّسْلَ ۗ وَاللَّهُ لَا يُحِبُّ الْفُسَادَ وَإِذَا قِيلَ لَهُ اتَّقِ اللَّهَ أَخَذَتْهُ الْعِزَّةُ بِالْإِثْمِ ۖ فَحَسْبُهُ جَهَنَّمُ ۖ وَلَبِئْسَ الْمِهَادُ

"And of the people is he whose speech pleases you in worldly life, and he calls Allāh ﷻ to witness as to what is in his heart, yet he is the fiercest of opponents. And when he goes away, he strives throughout the land to cause corruption therein and destroy crops and animals. And Allāh ﷻ does not like corruption. And when it is said to him, "Fear Allāh," pride in the sin takes hold of him. Sufficient for him is Hellfire, and how wretched is the resting place."

Surah Al-Baqara: 204-206

The person who rejects the truth, when he is told “Fear Allāh” he starts becoming arrogant and avoids listening to the other person.

Another example of this is when someone advises others when they are doing something wrong, the one who is being advised plays the victim syndrome and says things like “all you ever do is undermine me...” etc

A person who is humble would accept the truth straightaway even if it comes from someone he does not like.

Umar ibn al khattab wrote a letter to Abu Musa al-Ashari in which he mentioned:

5 لَا يَمْنَعُكَ قَضَاءُ قَضَيْتَهُ بِالْأَمْسِ رَاجَعْتَ فِيهِ نَفْسَكَ وَهَدَيْتَ فِيهِ لِرُشْدِكَ أَنْ تُرَاجِعَ الْحَقَّ فَإِنَّ الْحَقَّ قَدِيمٌ وَمُرَاجَعَةُ الْحَقِّ خَيْرٌ مِنَ التَّمَادِي فِي الْبَاطِلِ

“Do not let a judgement which you passed yesterday prevent you from returning to the truth when you have re-considered it and have been guided correctly. For verily the truth is old and returning to the truth is better than swimming in falsehood”

Sunan al-Dārquṭnī 4/206

Also, from arrogance is to belittle people. When someone comes with arrogance constantly, he or she will have to lie one day because he might find people whom he will not be able to belittle without hiding the truth.

Factors That Make People Arrogant

Chapter Two

1 Wealth

People often become arrogant when they get wealth, even if they weren't arrogant before. Allāh ﷻ mentions the story of the man who was the possessor of two gardens.

Allāh ﷻ said:

1 **وَكَانَ لَهُ ثَمَرٌ فَقَالَ لِصَاحِبِهِ وَهُوَ يُحَاوِرُهُ أَنَا أَكْثَرُ مِنْكَ مَالًا وَأَعَزُّ نَفَرًا**
And he had fruit, so he said to his companion while he was conversing with him, "I am greater than you in wealth and mightier in [numbers of] men."

Surah Al-Kahf: 34

2 **إِنَّ قَارُونَ كَانَ مِنْ قَوْمِ مُوسَىٰ فَبَغَىٰ عَلَيْهِمْ ۖ وَآتَيْنَاهُ مِنَ الْكُنُوزِ مَا إِنَّ مَفَاتِحَهُ لَتَنُوءُ بِالْعُصْبَةِ أُولَى الْقُوَّةِ إِذْ قَالَ لَهُ قَوْمُهُ لَا تَفْرَحْ ۖ إِنَّ اللَّهَ لَا يُحِبُّ الْفَرِحِينَ وَابْتَغَ فِيمَا آتَاكَ اللَّهُ الدَّارَ الْآخِرَةَ ۖ وَلَا تَنْسَ نَصِيبَكَ مِنَ الدُّنْيَا ۖ وَأَحْسِنَ كَمَا أَحْسَنَ اللَّهُ إِلَيْكَ ۖ وَلَا تَبْغِ الْفَسَادَ فِي الْأَرْضِ ۖ إِنَّ اللَّهَ لَا يُحِبُّ الْمُفْسِدِينَ**

“Indeed, Qārūn was from the people of Moses, but he tyrannised them. And We gave him of treasures whose keys would burden a band of strong men; thereupon his people said to him, "Do not exult. Indeed, Allāh ﷻ does not like the exultant. But seek, through that which Allāh ﷻ has given you, the home of the Hereafter; and [yet], do not forget your share of the world. And do good as Allāh ﷻ has done good to you. And desire not corruption in the land. Indeed, Allāh ﷻ does not like corrupters."

Surah Al-Qasas: 76-77

3 **وَإِذَا مَسَّ الْإِنْسَانَ الضُّرُّ دَعَانَا لِجَنْبِهِ أَوْ قَاعِدًا أَوْ قَائِمًا فَلَمَّا كَشَفْنَا عَنْهُ ضُرَّهُ مَرَّ كَأَن لَّمْ يَدْعُنَا إِلَىٰ ضُرِّ مَسَّهُ ۚ كَذَلِكَ زِينٌ لِّلْمُسْرِفِينَ مَا كَانُوا يَعْمَلُونَ**

“And when affliction touches man, he calls upon Us, whether lying on his side or sitting or standing; but when We remove from him his affliction, he continues [in disobedience] as if he had never called upon Us to [remove] an affliction that touched him. Thus is made pleasing to the transgressors that they have been doing.”

Surah Yunus: 12

1 Knowledge

Arrogance sometimes enters the hearts of people who study and gain knowledge. They put themselves high and belittle others whilst considering them to be ignorant. There are two reasons for this:

- a** **He busies himself with that which he thinks is knowledge however in reality it is not. True knowledge will make someone humble themselves, as they will come to the realisation that there is so much they don't know.**

True knowledge brings about fear of Allāh ﷻ and humility as Allāh ﷻ says in the Qur'an:

1

وَمِنَ النَّاسِ وَالْدَّوَابِّ وَالْأَنْعَمِ مُخْتَلِفٌ أَلْوَنُهُ كَذَلِكَ ۖ إِنَّمَا يَخْشَى اللَّهَ مِنْ عِبَادِهِ الْعُلَمَاءُ ۗ إِنَّ اللَّهَ عَزِيزٌ غَفُورٌ

“...Only those who fear Allāh, from among His servants, who have knowledge...”

Surah Fatir: 28

b

Some people have a sick heart when they dive into seeking knowledge. Therefore, despite gaining some knowledge, it only amplifies this disease of arrogance in their heart.

Abu Al-'Ala Al-Ma'arri, a Zindeeq from the Zanadiq and an arrogant person, used to praise himself. He said:

2

"وإني وإن كنتُ الأخيرَ زمانُهُ *** لآتٍ بما لم تستطِعْهُ الأوائلُ"

“And I, even though I am from the later generations have come with that which the earlier generations have not been able to”

Wafayāt al-A'yān by Ibn Khalikān 1/450

Factors to overcome arrogance when seeking knowledge:

- **Busy yourself with true knowledge. Study with a teacher the things that you need, things from the actions of the heart, things related to worship, biographies of the salaf and the correct belief.**
- **Knowledge should change a person throughout his or her journey. The salaf would seek knowledge for other than Allāh’s sake in the beginning of their journey but later on sincerity settled in their heart.**

Types of Arrogance That Students of Knowledge Fall Into

Chapter Three

1

Making Themselves Equal to the Scholars

Imam adh-Dhahbi mentions that Ayyub al-Attār said he heard Bishr Ibn al-Hārith say:

"نا حمّادُ بنُ زيدٍ، ثمَّ قال: أَسْتَغْفِرُ اللَّهَ، إِنَّ لِدِكْرِ الْإِسْنَادِ فِي الْقَلْبِ خِيَلَاءَ"
“Hammād Ibn Zayd informed me, then he said: I seek forgiveness from Allāh. Verily, in the mentioning of the chain of narration can bring arrogance to the heart”

Siyar A'lām al-Nubalā 7/461

2

Perceiving Themselves to Have More Righteous Actions than Others

Some people become arrogant because they think they have more righteous actions than others. They want people to remember them as people of righteousness. They think they are safe whilst looking at other people who do not know how to pray etc.

Abu Hurairah narrated that the Prophet ﷺ said:

إِذَا قَالَ الرَّجُلُ هَلَكَ النَّاسُ . فَهُوَ أَهْلَكُهُمْ
“When a person says that people are ruined he is himself ruined”
 Sahih Muslim 2623a

Abu Ishaq said: I do not know whether he said" ahlakahum or ahlakuhum. However, Imam Al-Nawawi mentions ‘ahlakuhum’ as the most famous.

It has been narrated on the authority of Umm al-Dardā that she said:

“دَخَلَ عَلَيَّ أَبُو الدَّرْدَاءِ وَهُوَ مُغْضَبٌ، فَقُلْتُ: مَا أَغْضَبَكَ؟ فَقَالَ: وَاللَّهِ مَا أَعْرِفُ مِنْ أُمَّةٍ مُحَمَّدٍ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ شَيْئًا، إِلَّا أَنَّهُمْ يُصَلُّونَ جَمِيعًا"
“Abū al-Dardā entered upon us and he was angry, so I said: why are you angry? He said: By Allāh, I do not know from the Ummah of Muhammad anything, except that they pray together”
 Sahīh al-Bukhārī 622

If a person notices a deficiency in the Ummah, and he makes a suggestion for its rectification, then this is not an issue. However, to say that the Ummah is destroyed unrestrictedly, that would make a person fall under this hadith.

3

Being From a Particular Lineage

When a person is from a particular tribe that is big, powerful, wealthy or famous, he or she might belittle others who are from a tribe that is lower in status.

Jabir ibn Abdillah رضي الله عنه said that Umar رضي الله عنه used to say:

"أَبُو بَكْرٍ سَيِّدُنَا وَأَعْتَقَ سَيِّدَنَا يَعْنِي بِلَالًا"
“Abu Bakr is our master and he emancipated our master, meaning Bilal”
 Ṣaḥīḥ al-Bukhārī 3754

Islam destroyed the concept of lowering someone in status due to his lineage. When Abu Dharr رضي الله عنه said something unpleasant to Bilal (ؓ), the Prophet ﷺ heard about it and said:

"يَا أَبَا ذَرٍّ إِنَّكَ امْرُؤٌ فِيكَ جَاهِلِيَّةٌ"

“O’ Abū Dharr, you are a person who still has within them the pre-Islamic ignorance”

Ṣaḥīḥ Muslim 1661

Examples of People Who Were Arrogant

Chapter Four

1 Iblees

Iblees disobeyed Allāh ﷻ because of his arrogance. Allāh ﷻ says in the Qur'an:

1 إِذْ قَالَ رَبُّكَ لِلْمَلٰٓئِكَةِ اِنِّیْ خَلَقْتُ بَشَرًا مِّنْ طِیْنٍ فَاِذَا سَوَّیْتُهُۥ وَنَفَخْتُ فِیْهِ مِنْ رُّوْحِیْ فَقَعُوْا لَهٗۤ سٰجِدِیْنَ فَسَجَدَ الْمَلٰٓئِكَةُ كُلُّهُمْ اٰجْمَعُوْنَ اِلَّاۤ اِبْلِیْسَ اَسْتَكْبَرَ وَكَانَ مِنَ الْكٰفِرِیْنَ
قَالَ یٰۤاِبْلِیْسُ مَا مَنَعَكَ اَنْ تَسْجُدَ لِمَا خَلَقْتُ بِیَدَیْؕ اَسْتَكْبَرْتَ اَمْ كُنْتَ مِنَ الْعٰلِیْنَ
قَالَ اَنَا خَیْرٌ مِّنْهُؕ خَلَقْتَنِیْ مِنْ نَّارٍ وَخَلَقْتَهُۥ مِنْ طِیْنٍ قَالَ فَاَخْرِجْ مِنْهَا فَاِنَّكَ رَجِیْمٌ وَّاِنَّ
عَلَيْكَ لَعْنَتِیْۤ اِلٰی یَوْمِ الدِّیْنِ قَالَ رَبِّ فَاَنْظِرْنِیْۤ اِلٰی یَوْمِ یُبْعَثُوْنَ قَالَ فَاِنَّكَ مِنَ الْمُنْظَرِیْنَ
اِلٰی یَوْمِ الْوَقْتِ الْمَعْلُوْمِ قَالَ فَبِعِزَّتِكَ لَا اُغْوِیَنَّهُمْ اَجْمَعِیْنَ اِلَّا عِبَادَكَ مِنْهُمُ الْمُخْلَصِیْنَ
قَالَ فَالْحَقُّ وَالْحَقُّ اَقُوْلُ لَاۤ اَمْلَاَنَّ جَهَنَّمَ مِنْكَ وَمِمَّنْ تَبِعَكَ مِنْهُمْ اَجْمَعِیْنَ قُلْ مَا اَسْأَلُكُمْ
عَلَيْهِ مِنْ اَجْرٍ وَمَا اَنَا مِنَ الْمُتَكَلِّفِیْنَ اِنْ هُوَ اِلَّا ذِكْرٌ لِّلْعٰلَمِیْنَ

“[So mention] when your Lord said to the angels, "Indeed, I am going to create a human being from clay. So when I have proportioned him and breathed into him of My [created] soul,¹ then fall down to him in prostration.” So the angels prostrated - all of them entirely, Except Iblees;¹ he was arrogant and became among the disbelievers. [Allāh] said, "O Iblees, what prevented you from prostrating to that which I created with My hands?¹ Were you arrogant [then], or were you [already] among the haughty?” He said, "I am better than him. You created me from fire and created him from clay.” [Allāh] said, "Then get out of it [i.e., Paradise], for indeed, you are expelled. And indeed, upon you is My curse until the Day of Recompense.” He said, "My Lord, then reprieve me until the Day they are resurrected.” [Allāh] said, "So indeed, you are of those reprieved Until the Day of the Time is well-known.” [Iblees] said, "By Your might, I will surely mislead them all. Except, among them, Your chosen servants.” [Allāh] said, "The truth [is My oath], and the truth I say -[That] I will surely fill Hell with you and those of them that follow you all together.” Say, [O Muḥammad], "I do not ask you for it [i.e., the Qur’ān] any payment, and I am not of the pretentious. It is but a reminder to the world.”

Surah Sad: 71-87

2 Fir’aun

Fir’aun and his army were from those who rejected the truth due to their arrogance. Allāh ﷻ says in the Qur'an:

1 وَقَالَ فِرْعَوْنُ يٰۤاَيُّهَا الْمَلَاُ مَا عَلِمْتُ لَكُم مِّنْ اِلٰهٍ غَيْرِیْ فَاَوْقِدْ لِیْ یَّهْمٰنُ عَلٰی الطِّیْنِ فَاَجْعَلْ لِیْ صَرْحًا لَّعَلِّیْۤ اَطَّلِعُ اِلٰیۤ اِلٰهٍ مُّوسٰی وَاِنِّیْۤ لَاطْنُهُۥ مِنَ الْكٰذِبِیْنَ وَاَسْتَكْبَرَ هُوَ وَجُنُوْدُهُۥ فِی الْاَرْضِ بِغَیْرِ الْحَقِّ وَظَنُّوْۤا اَنَّهُمْ اِلَیْنَا لَا یُرْجَعُوْنَ فَاَخَذْنٰهُ وَجُنُوْدَهُۥ فَنَبَذْنٰهُمْ فِی الْاَلِیْمِؕ فَاَنْظُرْ كَیْفَ كَانَ عَاقِبَةُ الظّٰلِمِیْنَ وَجَعَلْنٰهُمْ اٰیْمَةً یَّدْعُوْنَ اِلٰی النَّارِؕ وَیَوْمَ الْقِیَمَةِ لَا یُنصَرُوْنَ وَاَتَّبَعْنٰهُمْ فِیْ هٰذِهِ الدُّنْیَا لَعْنَةًؕ وَیَوْمَ الْقِیَمَةِ هُمْ مِّنَ الْمَقْبُوْحِیْنَ

“And Pharaoh said, "O eminent ones, I have not known you to have a god other than me. Then ignite for me, O Hāmān, [a fire] upon the clay¹ and make for me a tower that I may look at the God of Moses. And indeed, I do think he is among the liars.” And he was arrogant, he and his soldiers, in the land, without right, and they thought that they would not be returned to Us. So We took him and his soldiers and threw them into the sea. So see how the end of the wrongdoers ended. And We made them leaders¹ inviting to the Fire, and on the Day of Resurrection they will not be helped. And We caused to overtake them in this world a curse, and on the Day of Resurrection they will be of the despised.”

Surah Al-Qasas: 38-42

3 People of Prophet Saleh عليه السلام

Allāh ﷻ says in the Qur'an:

1 قَالَ الْمَلَأُ الَّذِينَ اسْتَكْبَرُوا مِنْ قَوْمِهِ لِلَّذِينَ اسْتَضَعُوا لِمَنْ ءَامَنَ مِنْهُمْ أَتَعْمُونَ أَنَّ صَالِحًا مُّرْسَلٌ مِّن رَّبِّهِ ؕ قَالُوا إِنَّا بِمَا أُرْسِلَ بِهِ مُؤْمِنُونَ قَالَ الَّذِينَ اسْتَكْبَرُوا إِنَّا بِالَّذِي ءَامَنُتُمْ بِهِ كَافِرُونَ

“Said the eminent ones who were arrogant among his people to those who were oppressed - to those who believed among them, "Do you [actually] know that Ṣāliḥ is sent from his Lord?" They said, "Indeed we, in that with which he was sent, are believers.” Said those who were arrogant, "Indeed we, in that which you have believed, are disbelievers.””

Surah Al-A'raf: 75-76

4 People of Hud عليه السلام

Allāh ﷻ says in the Qur'an:

1 فَأَمَّا عَادُ فَاسْتَكْبَرُوا فِي الْأَرْضِ بِغَيْرِ الْحَقِّ وَقَالُوا مَنْ أَشَدُّ مِنَّا قُوَّةً ؕ أَوَلَمْ يَرَوْا أَنَّ اللَّهَ الَّذِي خَلَقَهُمْ هُوَ أَشَدُّ مِنْهُمْ قُوَّةً ؕ وَكَانُوا بآيَاتِنَا يَجْحَدُونَ فَأَرْسَلْنَا عَلَيْهِمْ رِيحًا صَرْصَرًا فِي أَيَّامٍ نَّحْسَاتٍ لَّنُذِيقَهُمْ عَذَابَ الْخِزْيِ فِي الْحَيَاةِ الدُّنْيَا ۖ وَلَعَذَابُ الْآخِرَةِ أَخْزَىٰ ۖ وَهُمْ لَا يُنصَرُونَ

“As for ‘ Aad, they were arrogant upon the earth without right and said, "Who is greater than us in strength?" Did they not consider that Allāh ﷻ who created them was greater than them in strength? But they were rejecting Our signs. So We sent upon them a screaming wind during days of misfortune to make them taste the punishment of disgrace in the worldly life; but the punishment of the Hereafter is more disgracing, and they will not be helped.”

Surah Fussilat: 15-16

5 People of Shu'ayb عليه السلام

Allāh ﷻ says in the Qur'an:

1 قَالَ الْمَلَأُ الَّذِينَ اسْتَكْبَرُوا مِنْ قَوْمِهِ لَنُخْرِجَنَّكَ يَشُعَيْبُ وَالَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا مَعَكَ مِنْ قَرْيَتِنَا أَوْ لَتَعُودَنَّ فِي مِلَّتِنَا ؕ قَالَ أَوَلَوْ كُنَّا كَرِهِينَ

“Said the eminent ones who were arrogant among his people, "We will surely evict you, O Shu‘ ayb, and those who have believed with you from our city, or you must return to our religion." He said, "Even if we were unwilling?”

Surah Al-A'raf: 88

6 People of Nuh عليه السلام

Allāh ﷻ says in the Qur'an:

1 قَالَ رَبِّ إِنِّي دَعَوْتُ قَوْمِي لَيْلًا وَنَهَارًا فَلَمْ يَزِدْهُمْ دُعَائِي إِلَّا فِرَارًا وَإِنِّي كُلَّمَا دَعَوْتُهُمْ لِتَغْفِرَ لَهُمْ جَعَلُوا أَصْبِعَهُمْ فِي آذَانِهِمْ وَأَسْتَغْشَوْا ثِيَابَهُمْ وَأَصْرُوا وَاسْتَكْبَرُوا اسْتِكْبَارًا ثُمَّ إِنِّي دَعَوْتُهُمْ جَهَارًا ثُمَّ إِنِّي أَغْلَنْتُ لَهُمْ وَأَسْرَرْتُ لَهُمْ إِسْرَارًا

“He said, "My Lord, indeed I invited my people [to truth] night and day. But my invitation increased them not except in flight [i.e., aversion]. And indeed, every time I invited them that You may forgive them, they put their fingers in their ears, covered themselves with their garments,¹ persisted, and were arrogant with [great] arrogance. Then I invited them publicly. Then I announced to them and [also] confided to them secretly.”

Surah Nuh: 5-9

7 Bani Israeel

Allāh ﷻ says in the Qur'an:

1 وَلَقَدْ آتَيْنَا مُوسَى الْكِتَابَ وَقَفَّيْنَا مِنْ بَعْدِهِ بِالرُّسُلِ ۖ وَآتَيْنَا عِيسَى ابْنَ مَرْيَمَ الْبَيِّنَاتِ وَأَيَّدْنَاهُ بِرُوحِ الْقُدُسِ ۖ أَفَكُلَّمَا جَاءَكُمْ رَسُولٌ بِمَا لَا تَهْوَى أَنْفُسُكُمْ اسْتَكْبَرْتُمْ فَفَرِيقًا كَذَّبْتُمْ وَفَرِيقًا تَقْتُلُونَ وَقَالُوا قُلُوبُنَا غُلْفٌ ۚ بَلْ لَعَنَهُمُ اللَّهُ بِكُفْرِهِمْ فَقَلِيلًا مَّا يُؤْمِنُونَ

“And We did certainly give Moses the Scripture [i.e., the Torah] and followed up after him with messengers. And We gave Jesus, the son of Mary, clear proofs and supported him with the Pure Spirit [i.e., the angel Gabriel]. But is it [not] that every time a messenger came to you, [O Children of Israel], with what your souls did not desire, you were arrogant? And a party [of messengers] you denied and another party you killed. And they said, "Our hearts are wrapped."¹ But, [in fact], Allāh ﷻ has cursed them for their disbelief, so little is it that they believe.”

Surah Baqara: 87-88

8 The Polytheists of the Arabian Peninsula

Allāh ﷻ says in the Qur'an:

1 وَمَا أَرْسَلْنَا قَبْلَكَ مِنَ الْمُرْسَلِينَ إِلَّا إِنَّهُمْ لَيَأْكُلُونَ الطَّعَامَ وَيَمْشُونَ فِي الْأَسْوَاقِ ۚ وَجَعَلْنَا بَعْضَكُمْ لِبَعْضٍ فِتْنَةً أَتَصْبِرُونَ ۚ وَكَانَ رَبُّكَ بَصِيرًا وَقَالَ الَّذِينَ لَا يَرْجُونَ لِقَاءَنَا لَوْلَا أُنْزِلَ عَلَيْنَا الْمَلَائِكَةُ أَوْ نَرَى رَبَّنَا لَقَدِ اسْتَكْبَرُوا فِي أَنْفُسِهِمْ وَعَتَوْا عُتُوًّا كَبِيرًا

“And We did not send before you, [O Muḥammad], any of the messengers except that they ate food and walked in the markets. And We have made some of you [people] as trial for others - will you have patience? And ever is your Lord, Seeing. And those who do not expect the meeting with Us say, "Why were not angels sent down to us, or [why] do we [not] see our Lord?" They have certainly become arrogant within themselves and [become] insolent with great insolence.”

Surah Al-Furqan: 20-21

Each of these groups of people were prevented from following the truth because of their arrogance. As a result of arrogance, Allāh ﷻ will divert a person away from the truth until they will not be able to differentiate between truth and falsehood.

Evil Consequences of Arrogance

Chapter Five

Arrogance has a very bad effect on a person's mannerisms and the way that a person carries himself. This can happen in several ways.

Being Too Arrogant to Believe in Allah and Worship Him Alone

Allāh ﷻ says in the Qur'an:

1

لَنْ يَسْتَنْكِفَ الْمَسِيحُ أَنْ يَكُونَ عَبْدًا لِلَّهِ وَلَا الْمَلَائِكَةُ الْمُقَرَّبُونَ ۚ وَمَنْ يَسْتَنْكِفْ عَنْ عِبَادَتِهِ ۖ وَيَسْتَكْبِرْ فَسَيَحْشُرُهُمْ إِلَيْهِ جَمِيعًا فَأَمَّا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا وَعَمِلُوا الصَّالِحَاتِ فَيُوَفِّيهِمْ أُجُورَهُمْ وَيَزِيدُهُمْ مِّنْ فَضْلِهِ ۗ وَأَمَّا الَّذِينَ اسْتَنْكَفُوا وَاسْتَكْبَرُوا فَيُعَذِّبُهُمْ عَذَابًا أَلِيمًا وَلَا يَجِدُونَ لَهُمْ مِّنْ دُونِ اللَّهِ وَلِيًّا وَلَا نَصِيرًا

“Never would the Messiah disdain to be a servant of Allāh, nor would the angels near [to Him]. And whoever disdains His worship and is arrogant - He will gather them to Himself all together. And as for those who believed and did righteous deeds, He will give them in full their rewards and grant them extra from His bounty. But as for those who disdained and were arrogant, He will punish them with a painful punishment, and they will not find for themselves besides Allāh ﷻ any protector or helper.”

Surah An-Nisa': 172-173

2

إِنَّ الَّذِينَ كَذَّبُوا بِآيَاتِنَا وَاسْتَكْبَرُوا عَنْهَا لَا تُفْتُحُ لَهُمُ أَبْوَابُ السَّمَاءِ وَلَا يَدْخُلُونَ الْجَنَّةَ حَتَّى يَلِجَ الْجَمَلُ فِي سَمِّ الْخِيَاطِ ۚ وَكَذَلِكَ نَجْزِي الْمُجْرِمِينَ لَهُمْ مِّنْ جَهَنَّمَ مِهَادٌ وَمِنْ فَوْقِهِمْ غَوَاشٍ ۚ وَكَذَلِكَ نَجْزِي الظَّالِمِينَ

“Indeed, those who deny Our verses and are arrogant toward them - the gates of Heaven will not be opened for them, nor will they enter Paradise until a camel enters into the eye of a needle [i.e., never]. And thus do We recompense the criminals. They will have from Hell a bed and over them coverings [of fire]. And thus do We recompense the wrongdoers.”

Surah Al-A'raf: 40-41

Walking in an Arrogant Manner

Allāh ﷻ says in the Qur'an:

1

وَلَا تُصَعِّرْ خَدَّكَ لِلنَّاسِ وَلَا تَمْشِ فِي الْأَرْضِ مَرَحًا ۚ إِنَّ اللَّهَ لَا يُحِبُّ كُلَّ مُخْتَالٍ فَخُورٍ

“And do not turn your cheek [in contempt] toward people and do not walk through the earth exultantly. Indeed, Allāh ﷻ does not like everyone self-deluded and boastful.”

Surah Luqman: 18

When a person is arrogant, they do not look at people face to face, and they walk on this Earth arrogantly. Allāh ﷻ does not like the arrogant ones.

Allāh ﷻ says in the Qur'an:

2

وَلَا تَمْشِ فِي الْأَرْضِ مَرَحًا إِنَّكَ لَن تَخْرِقَ الْأَرْضَ وَلَن تَبْلُغَ الْجِبَالَ طُولًا

“And do not walk upon the earth exultantly. Indeed, you will never tear the earth [apart], and you will never reach the mountains in height.”

Surah Al-Isra': 37

From the qualities of the believer is to be humble, whilst walking on the Earth with humility. When the ignorant people speak with them harshly, they respond in a kind manner by giving salaam. Allāh ﷻ says in the Qur'an:

3

وَعِبَادُ الرَّحْمَنِ الَّذِينَ يَمْشُونَ عَلَى الْأَرْضِ هَوْنًا وَإِذَا خَاطَبَهُمُ الْجَاهِلُونَ قَالُوا سَلَامًا

“And the servants of the Most Merciful are those who walk upon the earth easily, and when the ignorant address them [harshly], they say [words of] peace.”

Surah Al-Furqan: 63

The pious predecessors of this Ummah used to take care of how they walked. Khalid ibn Ma'daani mentioned about Amr ibn Al-Aswad Al-Ansi that when he would come out of the masjid he would grab his right hand with his left hand. When he was asked about it, he said he feared that his hand might fall into acting hypocritically. Imam adh-Dhahabi said that Amr ibn Al-Aswad Al-Ansi feared that he might fall while walking in an arrogant manner.

Lengthening the Thobe and Dragging it on the Ground (for men)

When the garments of men fall down on the ground, it is arrogance regardless of what anyone says.

The Prophet ﷺ said:

1

لَا يَنْظُرُ اللَّهُ إِلَى مَنْ جَرَّ ثَوْبَهُ خِيَلَاءَ

“Allāh ﷻ will not look at the person who drags his garment (behind him) out of conceit”

Sahih al-Bukhari 5783

Jabir ibn Sualimin said:

2

قُلْتُ اعْهَدْ إِلَيَّ . قَالَ " لَا تَسْبَنَّ أَحَدًا " . قَالَ فَمَا سَبَبْتُ بَعْدَهُ حُرًّا وَلَا عَبْدًا وَلَا بَعِيرًا وَلَا شَاةً . قَالَ " وَلَا تَحْقِرَنَّ شَيْئًا مِنَ الْمَعْرُوفِ وَأَنْ تَكَلَّمَ أَخَاكَ وَأَنْتَ مُنْبَسِطٌ إِلَيْهِ وَجْهَكَ إِنْ ذَلِكَ مِنَ الْمَعْرُوفِ وَارْفَعْ إِزَارَكَ إِلَى نِصْفِ السَّاقِ فَإِنْ أَبَيْتَ فَإِلَى الْكَعْبَيْنِ وَإِيَّاكَ وَإِسْبَالَ الْإِزَارِ فَإِنَّهَا مِنَ الْمَخِيلَةِ وَإِنَّ اللَّهَ لَا يُحِبُّ الْمَخِيلَةَ وَإِنْ أَمْرٌ شَتَمَكَ وَعَيْرَكَ مِمَّا يَعْلَمُ فِيكَ فَلَا تُعَيِّرْهُ مِمَّا تَعْلَمُ فِيهِ فَإِنَّمَا وَبَالَ ذَلِكَ عَلَيْهِ "

“Give me some advice. He said: Do not abuse anyone. He said that he did not abuse a freeman, or a slave, or a camel or a sheep thenceforth. He said: Do not look down upon any good work, and when you speak to your brother, show him a cheerful face. This is a good work. Have your lower garment halfway down your shin; if you cannot do it, have it up to the ankles. Beware of trailing the lower garment, for it is conceit and Allāh ﷻ does not like conceit. And if a man abuses and shames you for something which he finds in you, then do not shame him for something which you find in him; he will bear the evil consequences for it.”

Sunan Abi Dawud 4084 || Grade: Sahih (Al-Albani)

A Person Loves to See People Run Towards Him/Her or Stand Up for Him/Her

Abi Mijlaz said:

1

خَرَجَ مُعَاوِيَةُ عَلَى ابْنِ الزُّبَيْرِ وَابْنِ عَامِرٍ فَقَامَ ابْنُ عَامِرٍ وَجَلَسَ ابْنُ الزُّبَيْرِ فَقَالَ
مُعَاوِيَةُ لِابْنِ عَامِرٍ اجْلِسْ فَإِنِّي سَمِعْتُ رَسُولَ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ يَقُولُ " مَنْ
أَحَبَّ أَنْ يَمُثَلَ لَهُ الرِّجَالُ قِيَامًا فَلْيَتَّبِعُوا مَقْعَدَهُ مِنَ النَّارِ "

“Mu'awiyah went out to Ibn az-Zubayr and Ibn Amir. Ibn Amir got up and Ibn az-Zubayr remained sitting. Mu'awiyah said to Ibn Amir: Sit down, for I heard the Messenger of Allāh ﷺ (?) say:” Let him who likes people to stand up before him prepare his place in Hell.””

Sunan Abi Dawud 5229 || Grade: Sahih (Al-Albani)

Characteristics of Arrogance

Chapter Six

1 Unnecessarily Using Big Words and Terminologies

From the characteristics of arrogance is to exert a lot of effort to speak eloquently in front of the people.

Jabir said that the Prophet ﷺ said:

1

إِنَّ مِنْ أَحَبِّكُمْ إِلَيَّ : قَالَ وَأَقْرَبُكُمْ مِنِّي مَجْلِسًا يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ أَحَاسِنُكُمْ أَخْلَاقًا، وَإِنَّ أَبْغَضَكُمْ إِلَيَّ وَأَبْعَدُكُمْ مِنِّي مَجْلِسًا يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ الثَّرَثَارُونَ وَالْمُتَشَدِّقُونَ وَالْمُتَفَيِّهُونَ

"Indeed the most beloved among you to me, and the nearest to sit with me on the Day of Judgment is the best of you in character. And indeed, the most disliked among you to me, and the one sitting furthest from me on the Day of Judgement are the Thartharun, and the Mutashaddiqun and the Muthafaihiqun." They said: "O Messenger of Allāh! We know about the Thartharun, and the Mutashaddiqun, but what about the Muthafaihiqun?" He said:"The arrogant."

Jami` at-Tirmidhi 2018 || Grade: Hasan (Darussalam)

If speaking eloquently is something that is natural to a person, then there is nothing wrong with this. However, if he is doing it for a particular purpose, or he is overdoing it, then this can fall under arrogance.

2 Mocking, Sarcasm, Prodding, Criticising/Slandering, Name-Calling

The arrogant person sees himself to be above other people and as a result, he falls into mocking, sarcasm, prodding, criticising/slandering and name-calling.

3 Backbiting

The one who backbites others makes himself appear to be above the other person. So when he is asked about the someone who is absent he exposes the faults of the one who is asked about but he hides his own deficiencies.

4 Not Sitting With the Poor People and the Weak Individuals

If a person intentionally avoids sitting with people who are weak and poor, then this can also be from arrogance.

This is why Allāh ﷻ said to the Prophet ﷺ :

1

وَلَا تَطْرُدِ الَّذِينَ يَدْعُونَ رَبَّهُمْ بِالْغَدَاةِ وَالْعَشِيِّ يُرِيدُونَ وَجْهَهُ ۖ مَا عَلَيْكَ مِنْ حِسَابِهِمْ مِّنْ شَيْءٍ وَمَا مِنْ حِسَابِكَ عَلَيْهِمْ مِّنْ شَيْءٍ فَيَتَطَرَّدُوا ۖ فَتَطَرَّدَهُمْ فَتَكُونَ مِنَ الظَّالِمِينَ

“And do not send away those who call upon their Lord morning and afternoon, seeking His face [i.e., favour]. Not upon you is anything of their account and not upon them is anything of your account. So were you to send them away, you would [then] be of the wrongdoers.”

Surah Al-An'am: 52

Sa'd ibn Waqqas ﷺ said:

2

كُنَّا مَعَ النَّبِيِّ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ سِتَّةَ نَفَرٍ فَقَالَ الْمُشْرِكُونَ لِلنَّبِيِّ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ اطْرُدْ هَؤُلَاءِ لَا يَجْتَرِئُونَ عَلَيْنَا . قَالَ وَكُنْتُ أَنَا وَابْنُ مَسْعُودٍ وَرَجُلٌ مِنْ هَذِيلٍ وَبِلَالٌ وَرَجُلَانِ لَسْتُ أَسْمِيهِمَا فَوَقَعَ فِي نَفْسِ رَسُولِ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ مَا شَاءَ اللَّهُ أَنْ يَقَعَ فَحَدَّثَ نَفْسَهُ فَأَنْزَلَ اللَّهُ عَزَّ وَجَلَّ { وَلَا تَطْرُدِ الَّذِينَ يَدْعُونَ رَبَّهُمْ بِالْغَدَاةِ وَالْعَشِيِّ يُرِيدُونَ وَجْهَهُ }

“We were six men in the company of Allāh's Messenger (may peace be upon him) that the polytheists said to Allāh's Apostle (ﷺ): Drive them away so that they may not be overbold upon us. He said: I, Ibn Mas'ud and a person from the tribe of Hudhail, Bilal and two other persons, whose names I do not know (were amongst such persons). And there occurred to Allāh's Messenger ﷺ what. Allāh ﷻ wished and he talked with himself that Allāh, the Exalted and Glorious, revealed:" Do not drive away those who call their Lord morning and evening desiring to seek His pleasure."”

Khabbab mentioned:

3

فِي قَوْلِهِ تَعَالَى { وَلَا تَطْرُدِ الَّذِينَ يَدْعُونَ رَبَّهُمْ بِالْغَدَاةِ وَالْعَشِيِّ } إِلَى قَوْلِهِ { فَتَكُونُ مِنَ الظَّالِمِينَ } قَالَ جَاءَ الْأَقْرَعُ بْنُ حَابِسٍ التَّمِيمِيُّ وَعُيَيْنَةُ بْنُ حِصْنِ الْفَزَارِيِّ فَوَجَدُوا رَسُولَ اللَّهِ - صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ - مَعَ صُهَيْبٍ وَبِلَالٍ وَعَمَّارٍ وَخَبَّابٍ قَاعِدًا فِي نَاسٍ مِنَ الضُّعَفَاءِ مِنَ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ فَلَمَّا رَأَوْهُمْ حَوَّلَ النَّبِيُّ - صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ - حَقَرُوهُمْ فَأَتَوْهُ فَخَلَوْا بِهِ وَقَالُوا إِنَّا نُرِيدُ أَنْ تَجْعَلَ لَنَا مِنْكَ مَجْلِسًا تَعْرِفُ لَنَا بِهِ الْعَرَبُ فَضَلْنَا فَإِنَّ وُقُودَ الْعَرَبِ تَأْتِيكَ فَتَسْتَحْيِي أَنْ تَرَانَا الْعَرَبُ مَعَ هَذِهِ الْأَعْبُدِ فَإِذَا نَحْنُ جِئْنَاكَ فَأَقِمَّهُمْ عَنْكَ فَإِذَا نَحْنُ فَرَعْنَا فَأَقْعُدْ مَعَهُمْ إِنْ شِئْتَ . قَالَ " نَعَمْ " . قَالُوا فَاكْتُبْ لَنَا عَلَيْكَ كِتَابًا . قَالَ فَدَعَا بِصَحِيفَةٍ وَدَعَا عَلِيًّا لِيَكْتُبَ وَنَحْنُ قُعُودٌ فِي نَاحِيَةٍ فَنَزَلَ جِبْرَائِيلُ عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ فَقَالَ { وَلَا تَطْرُدِ الَّذِينَ يَدْعُونَ رَبَّهُمْ بِالْغَدَاةِ وَالْعَشِيِّ يُرِيدُونَ وَجْهَهُ مَا عَلَيْكَ مِنْ حِسَابِهِمْ مِنْ شَيْءٍ وَمَا مِنْ حِسَابِكَ عَلَيْهِمْ مِنْ شَيْءٍ فَتَطْرُدَهُمْ فَتَكُونُ مِنَ الظَّالِمِينَ } ثُمَّ ذَكَرَ الْأَقْرَعُ بْنُ حَابِسٍ وَعُيَيْنَةُ بْنُ حِصْنٍ فَقَالَ { وَكَذَلِكَ فَتَنَّا بَعْضَهُمْ بِبَعْضٍ لِيَقُولُوا أَهَؤُلَاءِ مَنَّ اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِمْ مِنْ بَيْنِنَا أَلَيْسَ اللَّهُ بِأَعْلَمَ بِالشَّاكِرِينَ } . ثُمَّ قَالَ { وَإِذَا جَاءَكَ الَّذِينَ يُؤْمِنُونَ بِآيَاتِنَا فَقُلْ سَلَامٌ عَلَيْكُمْ كَتَبَ رَبُّكُمْ عَلَى نَفْسِهِ الرَّحْمَةَ } . قَالَ فَدَنَوْنَا مِنْهُ حَتَّى وَضَعْنَا رُكْبَتَنَا عَلَى رُكْبَتِهِ وَكَانَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ - صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ - يَجْلِسُ مَعَنَا فَإِذَا أَرَادَ أَنْ يَقُومَ قَامَ وَتَرَكْنَا فَأَنْزَلَ اللَّهُ { وَاصْبِرْ نَفْسَكَ مَعَ الَّذِينَ يَدْعُونَ رَبَّهُمْ بِالْغَدَاةِ وَالْعَشِيِّ يُرِيدُونَ وَجْهَهُ وَلَا تَعْدُ عَيْنَاكَ عَنْهُمْ } وَلَا تُجَالِسِ الْأَشْرَافَ { تُرِيدُ زِينَةَ الدُّنْيَا وَلَا تُطِيعَ مَنْ أَغْفَلْنَا قَلْبَهُ عَنْ ذِكْرِنَا } - يَعْنِي عُيَيْنَةَ وَالْأَقْرَعُ - { وَاتَّبَعَ هَوَاهُ وَكَانَ أَمْرُهُ فُرُطًا } - قَالَ هَلَاكًا - قَالَ أَمْرٌ عُيَيْنَةُ وَالْأَقْرَعُ . ثُمَّ ضَرَبَ لَهُمْ مَثَلِ الرَّجُلَيْنِ وَمَثَلِ الْحَيَاةِ الدُّنْيَا . قَالَ خَبَّابٌ فَكُنَّا نَقْعُدُ مَعَ النَّبِيِّ - صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ - فَإِذَا بَلَغْنَا السَّاعَةَ الَّتِي يَقُومُ فِيهَا قُمْنًا وَتَرَكْنَاهُ حَتَّى يَقُومَ

“And turn not away those who invoke their Lord, morning and afternoon...” up to His saying: “...and thus become of the unjust.” [6:52] He said: “Aqra’ bin Habis At-Tamimi and ‘Uyainah bin Hisn Al-Fazri came and found the Messenger of Allāh ﷺ (?) with Suhaib, Bilal, ‘Ammar and Khabbab, sitting with some of the believers who were weak (i.e., socially). When they saw them around the Prophet ﷺ they looked down on them. They took him aside and said: ‘We want you to sit with us along, so that the ‘Arabs will recognize our superiority. If the delegations of the Arabs come to you we will feel ashamed if the Arabs see us with these slaves. So, when we come to you, make them get up from your presence, then when we have finished, sit with them if you wish.’ He said: ‘Yes.’ They said: ‘Write a document for us (binding you to that).’ So he called for a piece of paper and he called ‘Ali to write, and we were sitting in a corner. Then Jibra’il (as), came down and said: “And turn not away those who invoke their Lord, morning and afternoon seeking His Face. You are accountable for them in nothing, and they are accountable for you in nothing, that you may turn them away, and thus become of the unjust.” [6:52] Then he mentioned Aqra’ bin Habis and ‘Uyaynah bin Hisn, then he said: “Thus We have tried some of them with others, that they might say: ‘Is it these (poor believers) whom Allāh ﷻ has favored from amongst us?’ Does not Allāh ﷻ know best those who are grateful.” [6:53] Then he said: “When those who believe in Our Ayat come to you, say: Salamun ‘Alaykum (peace be on you); your Lord has written (prescribed) mercy for Himself”.” [6:54] He said: “Then we got so close to him that our knees were touching his, and the Messenger of Allāh ﷺ (?) was sitting with us. When he wanted to get up, he stood up and left us. Then Allāh ﷻ revealed: “And keep yourself patiently with those who call on their Lord morning and afternoon, seeking His Face; and let not your eyes overlook them,” – and do not sit with the nobles – “desiring the pomp and glitter of the life of the world; and obey not him whose heart We have made heedless of Our remembrance,” – meaning ‘Uyainah and Aqra’ – “and who follows his own lusts, and those affair (deeds) has been lost” [18:28] He said: ‘May they be doomed.’ He said: ‘May ‘Uyainah and Aqra’ be doomed.’ Then he made the parable for them of two men and the parable of this world. Khabbab said: “We used to sit with the Prophet ﷺ and if the time came for him to leave, we would get up and leave him, then he would leave.”

Bad Effects of Arrogance on a Person's Character

Chapter Seven

1 Concerning Yourself With the Faults of Others, But Not Paying Attention to Your Own Faults

The person who is arrogant tends to focus on the faults of others, rather than the rectification of his own shortcomings. He doesn't believe he has any problems that require resolution, and therefore continues his wrongdoings and crimes.

He falls under the ayah:

- ① قُلْ هَلْ نُنَبِّئُكُمْ بِالْأَخْسَرِينَ أَعْمَالًا الَّذِينَ ضَلَّ سَعِيُهُمْ فِي الْحَيَاةِ الدُّنْيَا وَهُمْ يَحْسَبُونَ أَنَّهُمْ يُحْسِنُونَ صُنْعًا
- “Say, [O Muḥammad], "Shall we [believers] inform you of the greatest losers as to [their] deeds? [They are] those whose effort is lost in worldly life, while they think that they are doing well in work.”**

Surah Al-Kahf: 103-104

2 Not Accepting Advice

Another effect of arrogance is not accepting advice from people. Allāh ﷻ says in the Qur'an:

- ① وَإِذَا قِيلَ لَهُ اتَّقِ اللَّهَ أَخَذَتْهُ الْعِزَّةُ بِالْإِثْمِ ۖ فَحَسْبُهُ جَهَنَّمُ ۖ وَلَبِئْسَ الْمِهَادُ
- “And when it is said to him, "Fear Allāh," pride in the sin takes hold of him. Sufficient for him is Hellfire, and how wretched is the resting place.”**

Surah Al-Baqara: 206

3 Arrogant People Never Learn

Mujahid ibn Jabir (ؓ) said:

- ① لَا يَتَعَلَّمُ الْعِلْمَ مُسْتَحْيٍ وَلَا مُتَكَبِّرٍ
- “The arrogant one and the shy one do not learn”**

Learning requires a person to accept that there is someone more knowledgeable than you. In order to learn from them, you need to humble yourself to them. Therefore, the arrogant person never learns because he thinks he knows it all, whilst other people are deficient and not worthy of his attention.

4 Not Giving Salam When Meeting Someone

This type of person never gives the greetings of peace to others because he thinks that he is the best among all of the people. When he is sitting in a gathering, he wants to be known and desires to be the main focus of the gathering. He wants constant attention from people towards him and never wants to walk alone. Rather, he wants an entourage to accompany him whenever he is walking.

1

إِنَّ اللَّهَ يُحِبُّ الْعَبْدَ التَّقِيَّ الْغَنِيَّ الْخَفِيَّ
“Allāh ﷻ loves the servant who is God-conscious and is free from
want and is hidden (from the view of people).”
Sahih Muslim 2965

Punishments for Those Who Are Arrogant

Chapter Eight

1 Being Belittled by Others

The arrogant person deeply desires people to raise him and put him up; however, the opposite is what actually happens. Eventually, he is belittled by the people, and this is the way Allāh ﷻ does things. He raises the one who humbles himself, and lowers the one who is arrogant.

2 Allāh ﷻ Prevents Them from Seeing Reality

The arrogant person is not able to benefit from the signs of Allāh, such as the creation of the Heavens and the Earth, the Qur'an and the Sunnah. Allāh ﷻ says in the Qur'an:

1 سَأَصْرِفُ عَنْ آيَاتِيَ الَّذِينَ يَتَكَبَّرُونَ فِي الْأَرْضِ بِغَيْرِ الْحَقِّ وَإِنْ يَرَوْا كُلَّ آيَةٍ لَا يُؤْمِنُوا بِهَا وَإِنْ يَرَوْا سَبِيلَ الرُّشْدِ لَا يَتَّخِذُوهُ سَبِيلًا وَإِنْ يَرَوْا سَبِيلَ الْغَيِّ يَتَّخِذُوهُ سَبِيلًا ۚ ذَٰلِكَ بِأَنَّهُمْ كَذَّبُوا بِآيَاتِنَا وَكَانُوا عَنْهَا غَافِلِينَ

“I will turn away from My signs those who are arrogant upon the earth without right; and if they should see every sign, they will not believe in it. And if they see the way of consciousness, they will not adopt it as a way; but if they see the way of error, they will adopt it as a way. That is because they have denied Our signs and they were heedless of them.”

Surah Al-A'raf: 146

So when the truth comes to the arrogant person, he is not able to recognise it. If he is showered with evidence all around him, he is still blind from seeing the truth and accepting it.

Allāh ﷻ says in the Qur'an:

2 لَوْ أَنزَلْنَا هَٰذَا الْقُرْآنَ عَلَىٰ جَبَلٍ لَّرَأَيْتَهُ خَاشِعًا مُّتَصَدِّعًا مِّنْ خَشْيَةِ اللَّهِ ۚ وَتِلْكَ الْأَمْثَلُ نُضْرِبُهَا لِلنَّاسِ لَعَلَّهُمْ يَتَفَكَّرُونَ

“If We had sent down this Qur’ān upon a mountain, you would have seen it humbled and split from fear of Allāh. And these examples We present to the people that perhaps they will give thought.”

Surah Al-Hashr: 21

If this Qur'an was revealed upon the mountains it would have moved it. However, the heart of the arrogant person does not move when it hears the words of Allah.

Salamah ibn Al-Akwa said that the Prophet ﷺ said:

3 لَا يَزَالُ الرَّجُلُ يَذْهَبُ بِنَفْسِهِ حَتَّىٰ يُكْتَبَ فِي *الْجَبَّارِينَ فَيُصِيبُهُ مَا أَصَابَهُمْ

“A man shall remain exalting himself until he is written among the tyrants, so that he suffers from their afflictions.”

Jami` at-Tirmidhi 2000 || Grade: Da'if (Darussalam)

* The likes of Fir'aun, Hamaan

3 Arrogance is a Reason for Allāh ﷻ to Remove Blessings from a Person

Salama ibn Al-Akwa said on the authority of his father that:

1 أَنَّ رَجُلًا أَكَلَ عِنْدَ رَسُولِ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ بِشِمَالِهِ فَقَالَ " كُلْ بِيَمِينِكَ " . قَالَ لَا أَسْتَطِيعُ قَالَ " لَا اسْتَطَعْتَ " . مَا مَنَعَهُ إِلَّا الْكِبَرُ . قَالَ فَمَا رَفَعَهَا إِلَى فِيهِ

“A person ate in the presence of Allāh's Messenger ﷺ with his left hand, whereupon he said: Eat with your right hand. He said: I cannot do that, whereupon he (the Holy Prophet) said: May you not be able to do that. It was vanity that prevented him from doing it, and he could not raise it (the right hand) up to his mouth.”

Sahih Muslim 2021

The only thing that prevented this man from following the Prophet's command was arrogance. This hadith shows us that arrogance can take away blessings from you and can also bring the wrath of Allāh.

Imam an-Nawawi mentioned about this hadith in his explanation of Sahih Muslim:

2 وفي هذا الحديث: جواز الدعاء على من خالف الحكم الشرعي بلا عذر
 “If a person is told a hadeeth about the Prophet (ﷺ) It is permissible to make dua against them if they have no (valid) excuse for not following the Shar'i ruling.”

4 Allāh ﷻ Brings About the Punishment of the Grave and Deformation of an Arrogant Person

Arrogance is one of the reasons why Allāh ﷻ brings about the punishment of the grave and deformation of a person. It may also be that Allāh ﷻ sends punishment in the form of natural disasters such as earthquakes to destroy the arrogant people.

Abu Hurairah رضي الله عنه said that the Prophet ﷺ :

1 بَيْنَمَا رَجُلٌ مِمَّنْ كَانَ قَبْلَكُمْ يَمْشِي فِي حُلَّةٍ تُعْجِبُهُ نَفْسُهُ، مُرَجِّلٌ جُمَّتَهُ، إِذْ خَسَفَ اللَّهُ بِهِ الْأَرْضَ فَهُوَ يَتَجَلَّجُلُ فِيهَا إِلَى يَوْمِ الْقِيَامَةِ

“While a man was walking, clad in a two-piece garment and proud of himself with his hair well-combed, suddenly Allāh ﷻ made him sink into the earth and he will go on sinking into it till the Day of Resurrection.”

5 Punishment of the Hereafter

From the most severe and most scary of threats is the punishment of the hereafter that is awaiting the people who are arrogant. They are going to be destroyed with those who are destroyed on the Day of Judgement.

Fadaalah Ibn Ubaid said that the Prophet ﷺ said:

1 ثَلَاثَةٌ لَا تَسْأَلُ عَنْهُمْ: رَجُلٌ يُنَازِعُ اللَّهَ فِي كِبْرِيَاءِهِ، فَإِنَّ رِدَاءَهُ الْكِبْرِيَاءُ، وَإِزَارَهُ الْعِزَّةُ، وَرَجُلٌ يَشْكُ فِي أَمْرِ اللَّهِ، وَالْقَنُوطُ مِنْ رَحْمَةِ اللَّهِ

“Three, do not ask about them: A man who is debating with Allāh ﷻ in arrogance for Indeed the Ridaa of Allāh ﷻ is Arrogance and His Izza is Izaar. A man doubts the affairs of Allāh. And (a man) who gives up on Allāh's mercy.”

The Prophet ﷺ said to not ask about these three because they are going to face severe consequences.

6 Most Hated and Distant People from the Prophet ﷺ on the Day of Judgement

One of the punishments that awaits the people of arrogance on the Day of Judgement is that they are the most hated and the most distant people from the Prophet ﷺ on that Day.

Jabir said that the Prophet ﷺ said:

1 إِنْ مِنْ أَحَبِّكُمْ إِلَيَّ : قَالَ وَأَقْرَبُكُمْ مِنِّي مَجْلِسًا يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ أَحْسَنُكُمْ أَخْلَاقًا، وَإِنْ أَبْغَضُكُمْ إِلَيَّ وَأَبْعَدُكُمْ مِنِّي مَجْلِسًا يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ الثَّرَثَارُونَ وَالْمُتَشَدِّقُونَ وَالْمُتَفَيْهِقُونَ

"Indeed the most beloved among you to me, and the nearest to sit with me on the Day of Judgment is the best of you in character. And indeed, the most disliked among you to me, and the one sitting furthest from me on the Day of Judgement are the Thartharun, and the Mutashaddiqun and the Muthafaihiqun." They said: "O Messenger of Allāh! We know about the Thartharun, and the Mutashaddiqun, but what about the Muthafaihiqun?" He said:"The arrogant."

Jami` at-Tirmidhi 2018 || Grade: Hasan (Darussalam)

7 Allah's Anger Awaits the Person Who is Arrogant

The person who is arrogant will meet Allāh ﷻ on the Day of Judgement and Allāh ﷻ will be angry with him. Ibn Umar said that the Prophet ﷺ said that:

1 مَنْ تَعَظَّمَ فِي نَفْسِهِ أَوْ اخْتَالَ فِي مَشْيَتِهِ لِقَى اللَّهَ وَهُوَ عَلَيْهِ غَضَبَانُ

“The person who feels big of himself or he is arrogant in the way he walks, he will meet Allāh ﷻ on the Day of Judgement while Allāh ﷻ is angry with him.”

Musnad Ahmed 5959

8 **Being Raised Up in the Most Humiliating Form on the Day of Judgement**

The arrogant people will be raised in the most humiliating form on the Day of Judgement. Amr ibn Shu'aib narrated from his father who narrated from his grandfather that the Prophet ﷺ said:

1 يُحْشَرُ الْمُتَكَبِّرُونَ يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ أَمْثَالَ الذَّرِّ فِي صُورِ الرِّجَالِ يَغْشَاهُمْ الذُّلُّ مِنْ كُلِّ مَكَانٍ فَيُسَاقُونَ إِلَى سِجْنٍ فِي جَهَنَّمَ يُسَمَّى بُولَسَ تَعْلُوهُمْ نَارُ الْأَنْيَارِ يُسْقَوْنَ مِنْ عَصَاةٍ * أَهْلِ النَّارِ طِينَةِ الْخَبَالِ

“The arrogant ones will be gathered on the Day of Judgement resembling tiny particles in the image of men. They will be covered with humiliation everywhere, they will be dragged into a prison in Hell called Bulas, submerged in the Fire of Fires, drinking the drippings of the people of the Fire, filled with derangement.”

Jami Al-Tirmidhi 2494 || Grade: Hasan Saheeh

**The waste, the sweat, the blood, the pus of the people of the Hellfire*

9 **Prevented from Entering Jannah**

Arrogance prevents a person from entering Jannah. Ibn Mas'ud said that the Prophet ﷺ said:

1 لَا يَدْخُلُ الْجَنَّةَ مَنْ كَانَ فِي قَلْبِهِ مِثْقَالُ ذَرَّةٍ مِنْ كِبَرٍ
“He who has in his heart the weight of a mustard seed of pride shall not enter Paradise.”

Sahih Muslim 91

10 **Hellfire is Promised for Those Who are Arrogant**

The people who are arrogant are promised hellfire as the Prophet ﷺ told us:

1 أَلَا أُخْبِرُكُمْ بِأَهْلِ الْجَنَّةِ كُلِّ ضَعِيفٍ مُتَضَعِّفٍ لَوْ أَقْسَمَ عَلَى اللَّهِ لِأَبْرَهُ، أَلَا أُخْبِرُكُمْ بِأَهْلِ النَّارِ كُلِّ عَتَلٍ جَوَاطٍ مُسْتَكْبِرٍ

“May I tell you of the people of Paradise? Every weak and poor obscure person whom the people look down upon but his oath is fulfilled by Allāh ﷻ when he takes an oath to do something. And may I inform you of the people of the Hell-Fire? They are all those violent, arrogant and stubborn people.”

Sahih al-Bukhari 4918

Abu Hurairah رضي الله عنه narrated that the Prophet ﷺ said:

2 أَحْتَجُّ النَّارَ وَالْجَنَّةَ فَقَالَتِ النَّارُ: يَدْخُلْنِي الْجَبَّارُونَ وَالْمُتَكَبِّرُونَ وَقَالَتِ الْجَنَّةُ: مَا لِي لَا يَدْخُلْنِي إِلَّا ضَعَفَاءُ النَّاسِ وَسَقَطُهُمْ؟ فَقَالَ اللَّهُ عَزَّ وَجَلَّ لِلنَّارِ أَنْتِ عَذَابِي أُعَذِّبُ بِكَ مَنْ أَشَاءُ وَرَبِّمَا قَالَ أُصِيبُ بِكَ مَنْ أَشَاءُ وَقَالَ لِلْجَنَّةِ: أَنْتِ رَحْمَتِي أَرْحُمُ بِكَ مَنْ أَشَاءُ وَلَكُلِّ وَاحِدَةٍ مِنْكُمَا مِلْؤُهُ

“The Hellfire and the Paradise argued. Then the hellfire said “the tyrant and the arrogant people will enter me.” Paradise said “Why is it that the weak and lowest people enter me?” Allāh ﷻ said to the Hellfire “You are my punishment. Whoever I want, I will punish you (by using you) or perhaps I will afflict you with whoever I want.” And Allāh ﷻ said to the Paradise “You are my merc. Whoever I will, I will be merciful to them with using (by using you). And both of you will have that which can fill you up.”

Sahih Bukhari 4850 || Sahih Muslim 2836 (Wording of Saheeh Muslim)

11 Entering the Hellfire Humiliated

The people who are arrogant are not only going to enter the Hellfire, but they will enter the Hellfire humiliated. Allāh ﷻ says in the Qur'an:

1 وَسِيقَ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا إِلَىٰ جَهَنَّمَ زُمَرًا ۖ حَتَّىٰ إِذَا جَاءُوهَا فَتِحَتْ أَبْوُوبُهَا وَقَالَ لَهُمْ خَزَنَتُهَا أَلَمْ يَأْتِكُمْ رُسُلٌ مِّنكُمْ يَتْلُونَ عَلَيْكُمْ آيَاتِ رَبِّكُمْ وَيُنذِرُونَكُمْ لِقَاءَ يَوْمِكُمْ هَٰذَا ۚ قَالُوا بَلَىٰ وَلَٰكِن حَقَّتْ كَلِمَةُ الْعَذَابِ عَلَى الْكَافِرِينَ قِيلَ ادْخُلُوا أَبْوَابَ جَهَنَّمَ خَالِدِينَ فِيهَا ۖ فَبُئْسَ مَثْوًى لِّلْمُتَكَبِّرِينَ

“And those who disbelieved will be driven to Hell in groups until, when they reach it, its gates are opened and its keepers will say, "Did there not come to you messengers from yourselves, reciting to you the verses of your Lord and warning you of the meeting of this Day of yours?" They will say, "Yes, but the word [i.e., decree] of punishment has come into effect upon the disbelievers.” [To them] it will be said, "Enter the gates of Hell to abide eternally therein, and wretched is the residence of the arrogant.””

Surah Az-Zumar: 71-72

2 وَقَالَ رَبُّكُمُ ادْعُونِي أَسْتَجِبْ لَكُمْ ۚ إِنَّ الَّذِينَ يَسْتَكْبِرُونَ عَنْ عِبَادَتِي سَيَدْخُلُونَ جَهَنَّمَ دَاخِرِينَ

“And your Lord says, "Call upon Me; I will respond to you." Indeed, those who disdain My worship will enter Hell [rendered] contemptible.”

Surah Ghafir: 60

**O Allāh, fill our hearts with humility
and humbleness and protect us
from being arrogant.**



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